



## Third Time's a Charm

*Halenda's takes home their 3rd consecutive Award of Excellence*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guelph, ON – October 27, 2015 – For the third consecutive time, with the highest overall score, [Halenda's Fine Foods](#) takes home the top award in the Ontario Finest Meat Competition™.

"Halenda's is proud to have won the 2015 Ron's Usborne Award of Excellence, and feel honoured to have received three times," said owner Richard Halenda.

Eleven awards in total - the Traditional Ukrainian Smoked Bacon, Eco Black Forest Ham, Ham Kobassa, and Koby Dogs, beat out all other competitors in each of their categories with the Platinum award. Taking home Gold were Peppercorn Peameal, Mishka Mini Dinner Ham, and Fiesta Garlic Smokie. Placing Silver were BBQ Breakfast Bacon, Country Kobassa, Hunter Garlic Sausage, and Jalapeño Sausage.

"We are extremely pleased with how well our products were received and would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work and dedication to excellence," added Halenda.

The 2015 Ontario Finest Meat Competition™, hosted by the Ontario Independent Meat Processors, attracted 148 entries from 18 Ontario processors. July 28 and 29, an impressive roster of knowledgeable, influential judges including retail buyers, media, chefs, authors and a home economist determined the award winners in each of 14 categories. See our behind the scenes [video](#).

Winners for Platinum, Gold, and Silver were announced at a gala event held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Saturday October 24. Judging criteria was based on flavour, aroma, texture, uniqueness and visual appearance, and the top three entries from each category were selected based on the judges' combined scores.

### **About the Ontario Finest Meat Competition™**

In 1987 the Ontario Independent Meat Processors (OIMP) launched its first meat competition with four categories and a handful of entries competing for peer recognition and bragging rights. The competition moved from an annual to a biennial competition in 2003 and now, in 2015, it is the largest of its kind in Canada with 14 categories that embrace both modern trends and the enduring heritage of Ontario's artisanal meat and poultry products.

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